

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this Application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed on July 28, 2005. Claims 1-20 are pending in the Application, Claims 3-5 stand objected to, and Claims 1 and 2 have been allowed. The indication of allowable subject matter is noted with appreciation. Claims 1-5 are amended and new Claims 6-20 are added by the present Amendment.

Claims 1-5 are amended in order to correct minor informalities and to better comply with standard U.S. claim drafting practices. The scope of Claims 1-5 remains unchanged.

Summarizing the outstanding Office Action, the abstract of the disclosure was objected to for informalities; Claims 3-5 were objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c) for being in improper multiple dependent form; and Claim 5 was objected to for informalities.

Applicants have herein submitted a rewritten abstract to comply with that outstanding objection and respectfully request reconsideration of the same.

Applicants have amended the dependency of Claims 3-5 and herein respectfully request reconsideration of the objections of those claims under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c).

Applicants note with appreciation the time taken by the Examiner to identify specific areas needing revisions. Applicants have amended Claim 5, including correction of the cited informalities, and respectfully request reconsideration of the objection thereto. In addition, in view of the present amendment, it is believed that all pending claims are definite and no further rejection on that basis is anticipated. If, however, the Examiner disagrees, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned who will be happy to work with the Examiner in a joint effort to derive mutually acceptable language.

Finally, Applicants have submitted new Claims 6-20, which find non-limiting support on the subject matter originally disclosed as follows: (1) as to Claims 6-14, support is self-

evident from the originally filed claims; (2) as to Claims 15-17, on page 9, lines 12-34 of the Disclosure; (3) as to Claim 18, on page 12, lines 4-8; and (4) as to Claims 19 and 20, on page 18, lines 6-29. Therefore, new Claims 6-20 are not believed to raise a question of new matter.¹ Claims 6-9 depend from Claim 1 and Claims 10-20 depend from Claim 9.

New independent Claim 9 recites a process for producing a turbomachine blade, comprising: producing an airfoil blank; cutting a cavity on a hollowed side of the airfoil blank; cutting a socket bordering the cavity in the hollowed side, the socket having a bearing surface and a lateral surface; producing a cover having opposite internal and external surfaces, a portion of the internal surface being shaped so as to match a portion of the hollowed side, the socket and the cover being dimensioned so as to allow the cover to be inserted into the socket with the internal surface placed against the bearing surface so that the external surface lies in an extension of the hollowed side, a lateral surface of the socket surrounding the cover and the latter being positioned so as to cover the cavity in the hollowed side; inserting the cover into the socket and welding edges thereof on the hollowed side to the airfoil, the welding being carried out by a welding tool penetrating from the hollowed side between the cover and the airfoil until contact is made of the welding tool with the hollowed side and the cover, moving the welding tool along a welding path, and forming a weld bead penetrating into the airfoil to a depth P at least equal to a thickness EC of the edges of the cover so as to provide continuity of material between the edges of the cover and the airfoil over a depth at least equal to the thickness EC ; and finishing the blade. In view of the allowed subject matter of Claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that new Claim 9 should also be allowed.

¹ See MPEP 2163.06 stating that "information contained in any one of the specification, claims or drawings of the application as filed may be added to any other part of the application without introducing new matter."

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-20 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representatives at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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